



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

EDDIE A. PEREZ
Mayor

Telephone: (860) 543-8500
Fax: (860) 722-6606

Contact: Sarah Barr, Director of Communications

-----MEDIA RELEASE-----

**CITY OF HARTFORD RECEIVES
\$100,000 HOMEOWNERSHIP GRANT**

(June 28, 2005)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez is proud to announce that the City of Hartford's homeownership initiative has received a big financial show of support from The Phoenix Companies. The foundation for the insurance and annuity giant has issued a \$100,000 homeownership grant.

Homeownership is considered a key component to the revitalization of Hartford. This money will target neighborhoods that are not the most distressed, but are not healthy enough at this point to compete in the marketplace. This will improve the housing stock by providing low interest loans and grants to improve owner-occupied units and support other neighborhood improvement projects.

Mayor Perez says, "This grant will help more local residents achieve their share of the American Dream--- of owning a home. There are 800 new homeowners in Hartford since 2002, and a grant like this will only help that number grow. We also applaud Phoenix's unwavering commitment to Hartford. They are a valued corporate citizen and an active participant in the life of this community."

The Phoenix has a proud history in Hartford, dating back to 1851. Mayor Perez says a grant like this will only build upon that strong bond and "ensure that we will build Hartford for the next generation and for the next century."